Information Literacy of the Faculty Working in Colleges Affiliated to Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded

A Synopsis submitted to

Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded

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BY

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Introduction:

Paul G. Zurkowski coined the phrase information literacy in 1974, when he wrote a report on behalf of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. He used the phrase for describing the techniques and skills learned by the information literate for utilizing the wide range of information tools as well as primary sources in molding information solutions to their problems and sketched a relatively firm line between the literates and information illiterates (Zurkowski, 1974).

Information literacy encompasses a set of abilities and skills which everyone needs to carry out information-related tasks; such as to discover, access, interpret, analyze, communicate, store and share information. It is not delimited with these activities only but it concerns the application of the competencies, attributes and confidence needed to make the best use of information and to interpret it judiciously. It incorporates critical thinking and awareness, and an understanding of both the ethical and political issues associated with using information. Information literacy relates to information in all its forms: like print, digital content, data, images and the spoken word and many more. Digital literacy, academic literacy and media literacy are the subparts of information literacy. It is not a sole concept, and is associated with other knowledge areas. For understanding information literacy and its ethical and legal issues associated with the use of information, one need to know the issues like, privacy, data protection, and freedom of information, open access/open data and intellectual property.

In teaching learning process information plays a key role and therefore teachers as well as the students need to use information more wisely, today information resources are available in diverse form. Information becomes a commodity and it has economical value and some legal aspects also affect the free use of information. It is important for the academic society to understand how to use information without any hesitation. Information literacy is the only way to use information in proper manner.

Statement of the Problem:-

Information Literacy of the Faculty working in Colleges Affiliated to Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded

Definitional analysis of Terms:

Information:

"Knowledge or facts learned, especially about a certain subject or event".

(https://www.yourdictionary.com/information)

Literacy:

UNESCO (2004) defines literacy as: "the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts. Literacy involves a continuum of learning is enabling individuals to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in community and wider society."

Information Literacy:

The American Library Association defines "information literacy" as a set of abilities requiring individuals to "recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information".

Faculty

A faculty is a group of employees, which includes teachers, lecturers, researchers, scholars and professors of different academic ranks such as associate professor, assistant professors and so on. They are specialised in various fields of study and teach different subjects at the institution (Surbhi, 2017).

College:

According to Lexico dictionary, "College is an educational institution or establishment, in particular one providing higher education or specialized professional or vocational training".

Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University:

Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (SRTMUN), Nanded is a public university located in the state of Maharashtra that came into existence after dividing the Marathwada University on September 17, 1994. It is named after a religious teacher Swami Ramanand Teerth. The University is recognized by UGC, Association of Indian Universities & Reaccredited with 'B' grade by NAAC. It has more than 300 affiliated Colleges**.** The university is intended to serve primarily the southern part of Marathwada, specifically the districts of Nanded, Latur, Parbhani, and Hingoli.

Aims and objectives:-

- To know the information needs of the faculties of the colleges affiliated to Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded.
- To find out the resources, channels used by the faculty members covered under the study.
- To identify the competency level of information literacy of the faculties working in the colleges affiliated to the S.R.T.M.University, Nanded.
- To ascertain the contribution of information literacy skills in using electronic information resources.
- To investigate the influence of the ability to locate and access information on productivity of the faculty members.
- To find out the contribution of information literacy skills and ability in teaching and learning process among the respondents of the study.
- To identify areas of strengths and weakness in information search techniques used by them.
- To find out the status of information literacy programs offered by the Libraries of the colleges where faculties are working.

Scope & limitations of the study:

The study will highlight the information literacy level and challenges like; skills of faculty members in identifying, locating, searching, accessing, retrieving and using information from various information resources and channels. The sample of this study covers the faculty members working in granted colleges affiliated to Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded. As per the limitations of the time the study will restrict to the randomly selected 500 full time faculty members working in said jurisdiction on or before 30 April 2020.

Review of Literature:

Literature review assist in gaining inclusive overview and summary of available information on a particular topic. Ample literature on Information Literacy is available. Selective studies are reviewed and given below.

Ali, et al…(2010) identified the information literacy skills that students should be improved . These include identifying the most efficient search strategy, evaluating internet information and websites, as well as using information ethically. Students' usage of electronic scholarly resources in their course assignments is very minimal. Examination of the bibliographies shows that most students are not aware of the proper format of citation.

Stella Korobili et al (2011) examined the level of information literacy skills in high school teachers and the extent of information literacy instruction in the western province of Thessaloniki. Five hundred structured questionnaires were distributed among the teachers, the study found that, men teachers with masters or PhD and teachers with less working experience were more likely to be frequent users of sources therefore authors suggested them to attend information literacy training seminars.

The aim of study conducted by **Belayand & Bramo (2017)** was to examine the electronic information literacy level and challenges among academic staffs to support teaching learning in higher learning institution, Ethiopia, The study revealed that academic staff in Ethiopia were facing certain challenges in locating the most appropriate

information resource, problems accessing too much time necessary to explore the information resources, lack of knowledge of search techniques to retrieve information effectively and problems to retrieve records relevant to information need. It was noticed during the study that 35.9% university/library did not organize information literacy training on use of electronic resources for academic staff member. On the training necessity 85.0% respondents agreed on the universities considering electronic information literacy training for their own staffs. Hence, Librarians and information professionals should be continuous training and retraining of academics on information literacy skills acquisition and adequate provision of electronic information resources in their institution.

Julien (2002) noted that an information literate person should hold specific online searching skills such as the ability to select proper search terminology, logical search strategy and appropriate information evaluation. Thus, one obstacle to the effective utilization of information resources especially digital resources in developing countries is the relatively low level of information literacy skill.

Bilawara and Pujar, (2016) reported that electronic information literacy is a sub-part of major component of information literacy. Mostly it deals with effective and proper use of electronic and digital information resources. The essence of electronic information literacy is to empower an individual to make familiar judgments about what is found online and make best use of it for one or more academic purposes. Electronic information literacy has become a necessity to sift through the growing electronic information"

The study of **Odede & Zawedde (2018)** suggested that there is a link between the use of electronic information resources and information literacy skills. So, The Universities should introduce the programmes such as information literacy certificate programmes, workshops, seminars and others that would boost information literacy skills of students to ensure effective and competent utilization of electronic information resources.

Hypothesis:-

The following the hypotheses are made for the present study:

- The faculties working in the colleges affiliated to the university needs certain information regarding teaching and research purpose for that they use divers print and digital resources and channels.
- The faculties working in said area posses information literacy skills and therefore they can use information effectively.
- Competencies of the respondents regarding the use of digital information promote their teaching and learning process and research productivity.
- They are facing certain problems while using digital information resources.

Significance of the Study:

Today information resources are available in various forms. Due to its financial importance it becomes one of the most important aspects of research and development. With the advancement in electronic information resources, academics in general have recognized the capabilities of digital technologies. The study provide information that support teaching and learning process in the changing global situation; and in particular, highlight those factors that should be emphasized in order to further encourage academic staff increase their teaching, learning and research productivity capabilities. The findings will be enhancing the academic staff development and capacity building drive in the area of information use in education sector. Eventually, it added to the body of knowledge of literature on information literacy.

Research Methodology:

Research methodology is the combination of two meaningful words i.e. 'Research' and 'methodology'. It means a system of path used to research or work in a given science or art. Research methodology lead to the investigator in how research work should be done, which tools have to select for data collection, how data will analyze, determination of samples, how scope and limitations should decide, which research method is applicable for the fulfillment of concern study etc. Methodology refers to more

than a simple set of methods; rather, it refers to the rationale and the philosophical assumptions that underline a particular study.

For conducting present study **descriptive research method** will be used whereas **Survey** technique will be adopt.

Data Collection:

Primary data will be collect from randomly selected 500 faculties (as mentioned in scope and limitation of the study). Secondary data will be collected from various resources like conventional resources, digital resources etc.

Data collection tool:

Success of any research depends upon valid and authentic data. While completing present study the data will be collect from the faculties working in the colleges affiliated to Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded. For collecting needed data researcher will prepare a structured questionnaire which will follow the aims and objectives of the study. The questionnaires will be distributes among the respondents and acquire needed data.

Sampling method:

While data collection an important question arises from whom the desire data will be collect. And this problem will be solved by using sampling method. As per the aims and objectives, scope and limitations of the study random sampling is suitable to collect desired data. Therefore for fulfilling present study random sampling method will be used.

Data analysis:

Data collected through questionnaire will be analyzed by using tabulation, graphical interpretation. Numerical data will be showed in percentile format. If necessary, statistical methods will be followed.

Outline of the chapters:

Academic research work is presented in several chapters and in this pattern following chapter scheme will be adopt by the researcher.

Chapter -1 : Introduction

It will start with Preamble, several definitions will be giving, and research methodology and other necessary information will incorporate in this chapter.

Chapter -2: Literature Review

Literature on related topics will be reviewed to understand the research area and such reviews will be arranged in this chapter.

Chapter- 3: Information Literacy: an overview

This chapter will be analyzing the concept of Information literacy its several aspects.

Chapter -4 Data Analysis and Interpretation

In this chapter data collected from the respondents will be analyzed.

Chapter -5: Summary, Findings, Conclusions and suggestions

Present chapter will be consists by summary of the study, findings conclusions derived from the analyzed data. And conclusions that found while analyzing the data and finally researcher will try to suggest some suitable suggestions.

Bibliography

Appendices: 1. Questionnaire

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Working plan:

Year 1:

First 6 moth's plan:

Collection of previous studies and books on research topic and prepare the list of the respondents.

Second 6 menthe's plan:

Reading related literature and start to write reviews.

Year 2:

First 6 month's plan:

Complete the writing of review of related literature and start for compilation of questionnaire.

Second 6 menthe's plan:

Complete the writing of questionnaire and start to distribute and collect the questionnaires and third chapter.

Year 3:

First 6 month's plan:

To start the data analysis interpretation and write first chapter

Second 6 menthe's plan:

Report writing printing, binding and submission of thesis

Researcher Guide

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